Thompson wins Frank H. Spedding Award

April 2, 2014

The 2014 Frank H. Spedding Award will be presented to Joe D. Thompson of Condensed Matter and Magnet Science (MPA-CMMS). He is being recognized "for outstanding contributions to the physics of f-element materials, especially their magnetism and unconventional superconductivity." The award, which is given in recognition of excellence and achievement in research on the science and technology of rare earths, is named for Frank Spedding (1902-1984), a Canadian chemist who developed the Ames process to achieve high purity uranium for the Manhattan Project's atomic bomb.

Achievements

Thompson received a doctorate in physics from the University of Cincinnati, and then joined the Laboratory as a postdoc in 1975. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Physical Society, and LANL. Los Alamos, DOE, and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science have given him research awards. He is a member of the Institute for Scientific Information inaugural group of the 250 most frequently cited physicists in the world and since 2012 has held the honorary title of Distinguished Visiting Chair Professor of Physics at Sungkyunkwan University.

Thompson will receive the award during the 27th Rare Earth Research Conference in Reno, Nevada. The meeting is the premier gathering for multidisciplinary basic and applied research on the f-elements. He will present an invited talk on his research at the conference.